of Rs. 6400.

(c) and (d) There is always scope of improvement in the implementation of such a big programme like I.R.D.P. Some important steps taken for improvement are given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(e) Since inception i.e. from 1980-81 to 1993-94 (till Dec. 93) 436.95 lakh families have been assisted against the target of 402.10 lakhs families.

(f) According to the third round of concurrent evaluation (Jan.—Dec., 89), 81% families had crossed the poverty line of Rs. 3500 and 28% families the poverty line of Rs. 6400.

(g) The objective of Family Credit Plan launched as a pilot project in 50 districts is to ensure higher investment and subsequently higher incremental income through the provision of assistance to more than one member of I.R.D.P. family. The average per family investment under Family Credit Plan was Rs. 11877 as against Rs. 7141 under normal I.R.D.P. during 1991-92.

Statement

Steps taken for improving the I.R.D.P.

1. The monetary ceiling on subsidy was revised upward by Rs. 1000 for each category of beneficiaries with effect from April, 1993. This is expected to facilitate higher investment levels and higher income genetation under I.R.D.P.
2. From 1991-92 Purchase committees in 50% blocks were abolished in every district. Under the new Cash Disbursement Scheme, the beneficiaries are given freedom to purchase assets of their own choice.
3. In order to ensure higher investment and higher incremental income, the pilot project of Family Credit Plan was launched during 1991-92. This scheme has since been implemented on an experimental basis in 2 districts in each State. The Ministry has now decided to extend the operatioin of the scheme to 231 districts where NABARD has its offices.
4. Recognising the importance of establishing proper marketing linkages for I.R.D.P. activities, there is now greater emphasis on setting up District Supply and Marketing Societies (DSMS). So far 34 DSMS have been sanctioned and 22 are already functioning. Similarly, 10 new DSMS (W) are being set up in coordination with UNICEF with emphasis on marketing of DWCRA products.
5. A team of Area Officers is deputed to visit states and give first hand account of existing problems and progress in implementation of the scheme.
6. At the instance of the Ministry, RBI has recently appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri D. R. Mehta, Deputy Governor to review all aspects of implementation of I.R.D.P. and give its recommendation for improvements therein.

Eighty first Session of Indian Science Congress

613. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Science Congress held its 81st session at Jaipur recently;

(b) if so, the names of the institutions and the number of delegates that attended the session;

(c) the gist of points and recommendations made in the session; and

(d) the gist of points/recommendations which Government have accepted for implementation and by when the same are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) held its

81st Session in Jaipur for 6 days between 3rd to 8th January, 1994.

(b) 3652 delegates attended the Session; the names of the participating institutions are under compilation.

(c) and(d) The recommendations are presently at the drafting stage. The Indian Science Congress Asson. (ISCA), which holds the Session, sends the final recommendations to the Government which, in turn, further process them through an Inter-ministerial Task Force, set up for the purpose to enable appropriate action by the concerned Departments/Agencies. The salient aspects of the action taken by the Government are also reported to the next Session through the release of the Task Force Report followed by a Session thereon.

Foreign Scientists in Kerala

614. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether hordes of foreign bacterial scientists have been descending on Kerala and taking away scoops of Kerala soil from its different gradients with a view to develop recombinent technology that will revolutionise food and medicine production in the 21st Century;

(b) whether Kerala soil is particularly rich in ground flora and micro-organisms;

(c) whether tribals in India familiar with the forests have been using different plants for treatment of varieties of diseases;

(d) whether a serious study will be made of the rich tribal medicinal lore;

(e) whether China has already launched such a programme and expects to achieve its goal of health for all by the end of the century through strengthening tribal medicine; and

(f) whether Chinese have achieved phenomenal success in world competition on a diet comprising indigenous natural food and medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPTTS. OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Provision of Modern Micro-seismic Equipments

615. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what steps have been taken to provide modern micro-seismic equipments as per the recommendations of foreign experts who have studied the data on the Latur earthquake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): The report of foreign experts has not been received. However, one of the foreign experts recommended clustering of instruments for monitoring earthquake activity in the Peninsular India. This scheme has been included in the proposal for seeking external assistance for setting up a network in Peninsular India.

Report of CLRI for Leather Mission

616. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) had submitted any report to Government for launching a Leather Mission and had recommended that installation of new machinery for processing the imported hides and skins be treated as modernisation for financial assistance; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on that report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE